

The Responsible Discipleship

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Mat. 28:19-20 NLT

Introduction: In the bible we learn about a character named Esther. She was a Jewish woman who was elected as wife of King Xerxes and queen of Persia. God set her in an influential position and gave her favor with King Xerxes; so that she would save her people from an extermination. Esther never forgot why God gave her influence, the word teaches that she had to hide her Jewish identity because Jews were not accepted in Persia; yet she risked her life, position, and reputation to save her people. Throughout our walk with God we sometimes forget why He has given us influence; we must remember that we are on earth to fulfill a heavenly purpose, destined for a specific time and that only we can achieve. The key is: Do not forget why God has given you influence. Today we will learn about the responsible discipleship; which is life lasting, and what we need to sustain it in our lives.

1. The Character of Christ (2 Timothy 2:2)

- a. There are three things that are needed to develop the character of Christ: purpose, character and vision. It is necessary to understand and focus on our purpose. Our purpose is written on Matthew 28:19-20; which is the basis of our mission and vision. It is our responsibility to arise as Esther did to guide and defend God's people. The character of Christ and vision is shaped when we make the **decision to be faithful and to obey His calling.**
- b. **“Suitability = God given gifts and talents that enable us to fulfill our purpose.”** Many have not discovered their gifts and talents, and this is why they cannot accomplish their purpose. We all have at least one gift or talent that is useful for God's service. There is no such thing as a human being who does not have the potential to serve God and make a difference in this world. We are loved and that is why we are called, we are called and that is why we are blessed.
- c. **“Faith reflects character.”** Character must not be confused with temperament. Temperaments are inherited by our parents, but the character of Christ is shaped inside of us. Character is: how we react when we are under pressure or when we encounter and are going through difficult situations. It is necessary for character to be tested, because it's only in this way that we can be refined and shaped more like Christ.
- d. **“What you hear determines your character.”** If one is hearing negative things then their character will be negative; but if one is hearing positive things then their character will be positive. It is highly important to take care of what we hear, because the word of God says in Romans 10:17 that *faith comes through hearing*. Faith and hearing have the potential to develop the character of Christ.

2. Faith, Love and Prayer (Ephesians 1:15-20)

- a. Faith, love and prayer must be rooted in the church of Christ to maintain a responsible discipleship. Discipleship is defined as a relationship between the

teacher (discipler) and the student (disciple). The moment will come when the disciple will have to depend completely on God.

- b. Faith:** is the anchor that keeps us and takes us to fulfill our purpose and mission, so we can be successful **Mark 11:24**. **Love:** it's when we see people as God sees them. **1 Corinthians 13:7**, it is to see our children and unconverted family members as politicians, presidents, pastors, apostles, prophets etc. understanding that the truth surpasses the reality that is seen in the natural. **Prayer:** must be the first priority in our lives and church, because it is there where we give birth to many answered prayers; and on our knees we win our greatest battles. Prayer is the foundation that sustains and activates the church; it brings the sudden intervention of God.

- c.** Though these three things are essential to maintain a responsible discipleship that is perdurable, the person's decision is important. There are things God cannot do for us and that we have to do. For example a person cannot get up in front of a mirror and say, "In the name of Jesus, brush your teeth, take a shower and get dressed...amen." Brushing our teeth and dressing up is our own decision and it is something God cannot do for us. In that same way, it is our decision to allow the Holy Spirit to shape in us the character of Christ.

3. **Renewing Our Minds (Ephesians 4:22-23)**

- a.** It is not in the mind of man that we will be renewed but instead in the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ is formed in the human being when we learn to receive faith through their spirit. Man reasons that it is a slow process to obtain the mind of Christ; when God is waiting on us to make the decision to act and think like Christ now!
- b.** If God is the Alpha and Omega that why does Matthew 28:20 state, "...*And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*"? God is referring to the "system" that governs the people of this time. In Greek **end** means "**telos**" which means "**system**." This reveals that God is talking about the end of the mediocre "system" that is governing mankind's thoughts. God desires that we end with that "process" so that we may align ourselves to the character of Christ.
- c.** "**Mind = my actions are a result of our thoughts.**" **Proverbs 11:30**, we need to think like bodyguards who protect the harvest of souls that God has entrusted us. The inheritance is spiritual and tangible and it is inside of us so that we can empower the believer in the Kingdom of God.

Announcements: "New Believers Classes": Sundays at 1pm and Tuesdays at 6:45pm

Sinner's Prayer

Lord Jesus I recognize I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and heart so you can be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.